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Maine Agricultural Experiment Station

BULLETIN No. 143.

MAY, 1907.

PRELIMINARY NOTES ON THE SEEDLING APPLES OF MAINE.

This bulletin contains a history and description of the more important of the seedling apples originating in Maine.

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AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION,
Orono, Maine.

MAINE

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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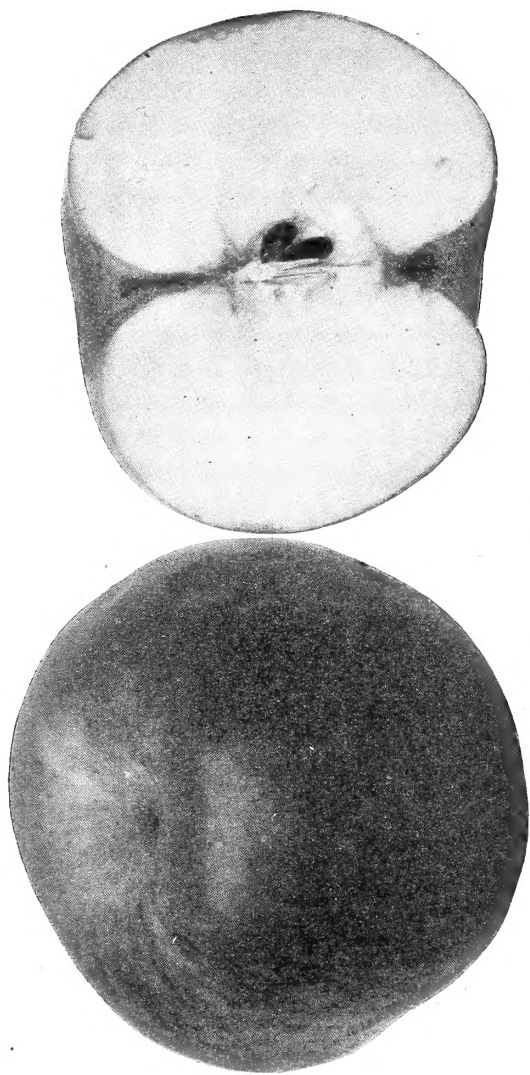


Figure 3. Rolfe. See page 130.

PRELIMINARY NOTES ON THE SEEDLING APPLES OF MAINE.

W. M. MUNSON.

In 1845 Charles Downing wrote: "New varieties of apples are constantly springing up in this country from seed, in favorable soils; and, when of superior quality may, as a general rule, be considered much more valuable for orchard culture than foreign sorts, on account of their greater productiveness and longevity. Indeed every state has some fine apples peculiar to it, and it is therefore impossible, in the present state of pomology in this country, to give a complete list of the finest apples of the United States."

Among the earliest Maine apples to attract attention were several varieties originating in the town of Winthrop, on the farm at present owned by John Stanley and Wyman Hanson. These apples sprang from seed brought to Winthrop before 1800 by Ichabod Howe, to whom is due the credit of planting the first orchard in the town of Winthrop. The seeds were brought from Ipswich, Massachusetts, and from the miscellaneous collection of seedlings produced, several valuable sorts were selected; among them being Winthrop Greening, which was first brought to notice by Jacob Nelson of Winthrop, who owned the Howe farm in the year 1808. Nelson, Lambert and many other varieties of local importance were also included.

In 1850, 10 of the 167 varieties deemed worthy of special mention for New England, by the author of Cole's American Fruit Book, were natives of Maine. The names and descriptions of 7 of these were furnished to the author by Dr. Ezekiel Holmes, at that time Secretary of the Maine Pomological and Horticultural Society, and were as follows: Bailey Golden, Briggs Auburn, Fairbanks, Moses Wood, Stevens Gilliflower, Winn Russett, and Winthrop Pearmain. The other three sorts named were Cole Quince, Table Greening, and Winthrop Greening.

*Fruits and Fruit Trees of America (1872), p. 70.

Every year there are shown at the various state and local fairs and grange exhibitions of Maine certain apples of considerable merit but only of local repute. Some few of these have reached the officers of the State Pomological Society, or the Experiment Station, and have thus been brought to public notice, others have never been distributed beyond the limits of the town where they were first produced. The purpose of the present notes is to call general attention to those varieties of Maine origin which are worthy of wider dissemination and to record, as accurately as possible, the history of such varieties. In securing data for the subsequent notes of this bulletin, the officers and members of the Maine Pomological Society, as well as other well posted fruit growers, have been freely consulted, and their aid is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

While Baldwin, Greening and other standard varieties, mostly of New England origin, will doubtless remain for many years the leading market sorts, new and valuable types are continually appearing, and these will be most likely to excel near their native home, or in their native state. In order to test such of the Maine seedlings as may be of merit, the Station has established a "Maine Orchard" where such new native sorts as come under observation are, if considered worthy, top-grafted into bearing trees for immediate and careful inspection. Many of the sorts named below are now included in the Station collection, and others are being added from year to year. Fruit growers in the State who have seedlings of special merit are urged to forward specimens of the fruit to the Experiment Station for inspection.

From the earliest times apples have been raised in Maine, and the quality of the fruit produced has always been recognized as of the best, but the farmers of the State have been slow to take advantage of the natural conditions offered. The various county and local agricultural and horticultural societies offered premiums before 1850. The Maine Pomological and Horticultural Society was organized in 1847, though it lived but a few years. In 1873 the State Pomological Society was incorporated. From the first, this society has encouraged the development and dissemination of meritorious seedlings.

Nurseries have at various times been established in the State, notably those of Colby, in Limerick, Bowman, in Sidney and Meritt, in Houlton. The deep snows, however, which in set-

ting strip the limbs from the young trees, and the mice, which also work havoc in young orchards, have combined to render the nursery business risky and unprofitable.

The catalog of Maine seedlings, though necessarily incomplete, includes all of the best known sorts, and some which, though listed by Downing, Cole and others, have been discarded. The fact that a variety has been called to public attention in fruit lists and pomological manuals, is deemed sufficient reason for consideration at this time. Doubtless many sorts have been omitted, and it is hoped that these, with other corrections, may be included in a subsequent and more complete list.

Besides the varieties above mentioned, are several more or less obscure ones, listed at different times by Downing, Thomas, Cole, and others, and mentioned in reports of the Maine Pomological Society. Many of these were simply of local importance and were never generally propagated. Others were more or less widely distributed about 50 years ago, but have been superseded by the sorts more commonly grown in the New York nurseries. Among these varieties may be named: Blake, Chase Seedling, Childs, Dayton, Kennebec Russet, Lambert, Peachblow, Rockwood, Smith Favorite, Table Greening. As these are now wholly, or practically extinct, descriptions are omitted.

TERMS USED IN DESCRIBING APPLES.

In describing the apples named below, the usual technical terms are employed:

The *base* is the "stem end"; the *apex*, the end opposite the stem or stalk, in other words the "blossom end"; the *cavity*, the hollow in which the stem or stalk is inserted; the *basin*, the depression at the apex, in which is the calyx.

A fruit is *round* when nearly spherical, as in Fameuse or McIntosh; *oblate* or *flat* when the breadth is greater than the length, as in Maiden's Blush; *conical*, when tapering from base to apex, as in Bullock, and in a common type of Baldwin or Ben Davis; *round-conical*, as in Red Canada; *oblong-conical*, as in Yellow Bellflower; *oblate-conical*, as in Rhode Island Greening. Various other combinations of forms are mentioned, but the terms used are perhaps sufficiently obvious.

The terms used in describing color, texture, and flavor, are self explanatory. Quality is designated as "good," "very good," and "best," in accordance with the usual custom. A fruit rated only as "good," must have some other very desirable qualities, as earliness, hardness, productiveness or beauty, to warrant its continuance in cultivation; such for example as Ben Davis, Red Astrachan, Pewaukee, etc. "Very good"

includes most of the commercial varieties, like Rhode Island, Baldwin, Roxbury, Hubbardston, etc. "Best" includes the choicest dessert apples, like Dyer, Grimes, Jonathan, and Mother. Fruits in this class may not be valuable commercially, and still may be well worthy of a place in the home fruit garden.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF MAINE SEEDLING APPLES.

AROOSTOOK.—Origin, farm of Silas S. Stiles, Mapleton, Aroostook county, Me., about 1870, from seeds of a "Greening" apple brought from Cumberland county, Me.

Tree vigorous, hardy, productive, even in Northern Aroostook.

Fruit small, roundish conical, light golden russet; fine grained, sweet. Good. "Keeps till July 1 in Aroostook county."

First brought to public notice by the Maine Experiment Station in 1902.*

AUGUST GREENING.—Originated in the garden of General Nowell, near Kenduskeag bridge, Bangor, Me., about 1850.

Tree hardy, spreading, productive.

Fruit large, roundish conical, dark green with reddish blotches; flesh rich, tender, juicy, sprightly acid. Good. August to September.

Said to be specially valuable for pies, being ready for this purpose, as early as July 20. The apple has been exhibited at State and local fairs by F. E. Nowell of Fairfield for more than 30 years. Mr. Nowell claims to have sold \$25 to \$30 worth of fruit from a single tree in one year.

BAILEY GOLDEN. (Bailey's Golden Sweet, Bailey's Golden Winter).—Origin, orchard of Paul Bailey, Sidney, Maine, before 1850.

As described by Cole, the fruit is very large, oblate, yellow with russet spots; cavity medium, broad; basin broad and shallow; flesh white, rather coarse but of excellent sweet flavor. Season "November and nearly through winter."

Bailey Golden as described by Downing, is said to be of oblong form, though flattened at the base and crown, and to be sub-acid in flavor; in season January to March; and in the Transactions of the Maine Pomological Society,† Cole is said to be in error, as to flavor.

The writer has never seen this variety on exhibition in Maine.

BLACK OXFORD.—Originated in Paris, Oxford county, Maine, about 120 years ago. The tree is hardy, an abundant annual bearer, and is specially adapted to rather moist locations.

Fruit medium, roundish-oblate, or slightly conical, yellow, nearly covered with shades of deepest crimson, and numerous small light colored dots. Flesh whitish, compact, rather dry, mild sub-acid. Good. February to May.

This variety was found as a seedling by Nathaniel Haskell, on the Valentine farm, now owned by John Swett.‡ A portion of the original

* An. Rept. Maine Agr. Expt. Sta. 1902, p. 91.

† Trans. Me. Pom. Soc'y, in Agr. of Maine, 1853, p. 404.

‡ Personal letter, J. G. Swett, March 4, 1907.

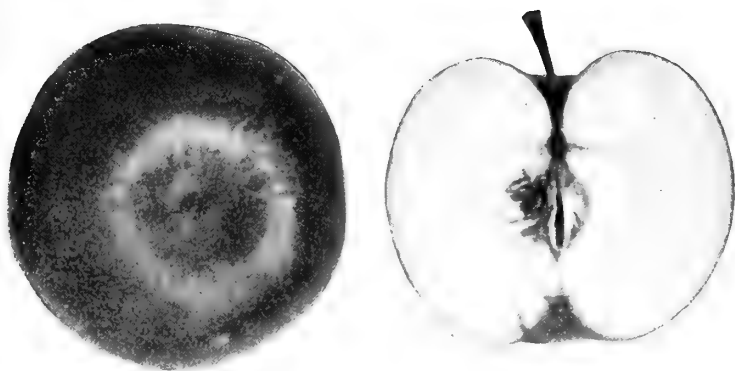


Figure 4. Black Oxford.
See page 118.



Figure 5. Cherryfield.
See page 121.

tree is still standing. It is a beautiful apple, of good quality, when in season, and highly prized by many as a late winter variety. It is not considered a good cooking apple, however, and is not being widely planted at the present time. For Maine conditions this apple may prove more valuable than those of the Ben Davis type. It sells well in local markets but is not yet popular in Boston.

BRIGGS, (Briggs Auburn).—Originated in Auburn, Maine, and was introduced by Mr. John C. Briggs before 1850.*

Tree vigorous, hardy and productive.

Fruit large, oblate, light yellow, with slight blush in the sun; stem long, in a broad, deep, flaring cavity; basin broad, shallow; flesh white, fine in texture, pleasant sub-acid. Very good. September and October.

A good variety for the season. According to Mr. J. T. Waterman of East Auburn, this variety is a chance seedling originating on the farm of Thomas Record of the town of Minot, then part of Auburn. The apple had a good local reputation and was freely grafted by neighboring farmers. Specimens were taken from Mr. Waterman's orchard to Dr. Ezekiel Holmes, secretary of the Maine Pomological Society, by Mr. John C. Briggs of Auburn,—hence the name. Well known throughout western Maine.

CHERRYFIELD, (Collins).—A chance seedling on the farm of the late Wyman B. Collins, Cherryfield, Me., about 50 years ago. Original tree still standing.

Tree vigorous, hardy, spreading and productive.

Fruit large, roundish conical, yellowish green, washed and splashed on sunny side with crimson. Stem medium, stout, inserted in a moderately deep, flaring, regular cavity; basin small, irregular; calyx closed; flesh greenish white, crisp, tender, fine grained, mild acid. Good. Season November to February.

Mr. David W. Campbell of Cherryfield, Me., who sends this apple, writes that it has been extensively grafted into all kinds of apple trees in the vicinity of Cherryfield, and that it proves hardy, a good bearer, and of excellent quality. It is a favorite variety in that locality. Under ordinary conditions it keeps through January, and has been kept in good condition until April. The variety is known locally as Collins, because of its original home. This name, however, is already in use for a variety originating in Arkansas, hence the change indicated. Promising.

DEANE, (Nine Ounce).—Originated in the town of Temple, Me., on the farm of Cyrus Deane, before 1874. (See Transactions of Maine Pomological Society, 1874-5, p. 125).

Tree vigorous, spreading, hardy, productive; bearing on alternate years.

Fruit medium, oblate or roundish conical, sometimes a little angular, and flattened at the base; skin whitish, shaded and obscurely splashed and mottled with red, with numerous yellowish dots; stem short, small, inserted in a rather large, greenish cavity; calyx closed; basin medium.

* Trans. Me. Pom. Soc'y, in Agr. of Me., 1853, p. 402.

slightly corrugated; flesh white, fine grained, tender, juicy, with a sprightly vinous or sub-acid flavor. September and October.

One of the best of its season, and highly prized where known. In 1889 the Deane was listed by Shurtleff * in the transactions of the Maine Pomological Society as "One of the most profitable, and one of the best autumn apples." Like other varieties of this season, however, it is subject to the ravages of the trypet.

DUDLEY (Dudley's Winter, North Star).—A seedling of Oldenburg, grown by John W. Dudley, Mapleton, Aroostook county, Me., in 1875. "The original tree bore its first apples in 1880, and has borne a full crop every year since." †

Tree very vigorous, spreading, hardy and productive, with large, luxuriant foliage.

Fruit large, roundish oblong, greenish yellow, washed and splashed with crimson; stem medium, inserted in a deep cavity; calyx partly open, basin large; flesh yellowish, crisp, breaking, rather coarse, brisk sub-acid. Good to very good. September to January—later in Aroostook county.

This variety is, perhaps more widely grown than any other of the newer sorts originating in northern New England. It is being disseminated by a New York nursery firm under the name North Star—an unfortunate circumstance, as there is another and very different variety bearing that name by right of priority. It is a valuable acquisition as a winter fruit for the northern parts of the State, where it is extensively planted, but as grown at Orono it is decidedly a fall variety.

EMERY (Emery Sweet).—Described by Maine Pomological Society, 1849, as follows: "Fruit medium, globular, russet, washed and streaked with red; Stalk slender, set in a narrow, moderately deep cavity; calyx small; flesh white, fine-grained, rich, sweet. Keeps till May.

"This apple was brought to notice by Judge Emery of Paris, Me., who obtained the cions from Stephen Chase of Fryeburg. It seems never to have been widely disseminated, however." ‡

FAIRBANKS.—Origin, farm of Elijah Fairbanks, Winthrop, Me., during the revolution.

Tree vigorous, hardy, upright, productive.

Fruit medium, light yellow, obscurely striped, with patches of russet; stem medium; cavity broad, moderately deep; flesh yellowish, fine grained, juicy, sub-acid. Good. September to December. The original tree was planted the day that Castine was captured by the British.

Not generally planted at present.

FRANKLIN SWEET.—Origin, Franklin county, Maine. (?)

Tree vigorous, spreading, productive.

* Maine Pomological Society, 1889, p. 135.

† Personal letter from the originator, Jan. 25, 1907.

‡ Trans. Me. Pom. Soc'y, in Agr. of Maine, 1853, p. 403.

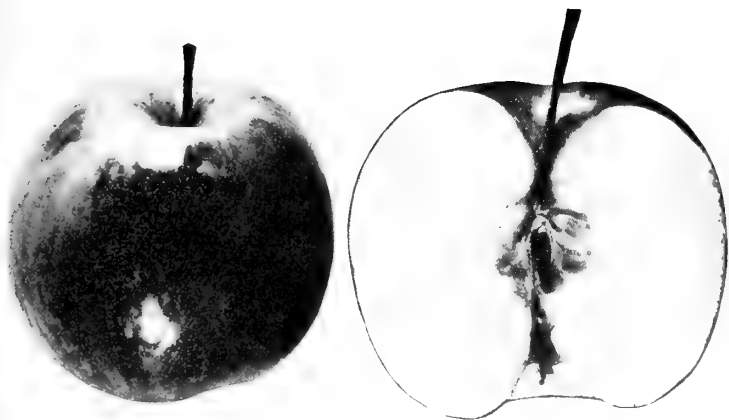


Figure 6. Dudley.
See page 122.

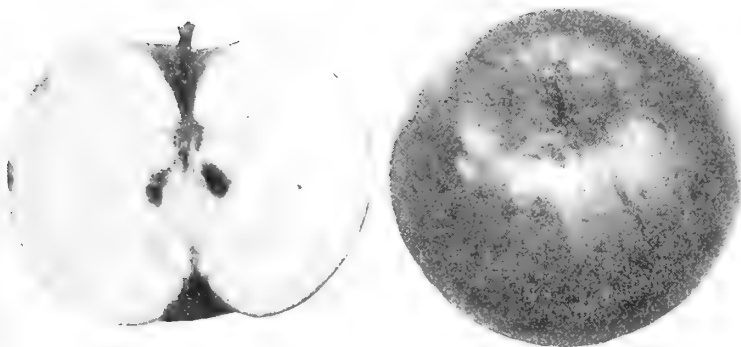


Figure 7. Franklin.
See page 122.

Fruit large, roundish conical, regular, whitish yellow overlaid with crimson, with stripes and splashes of deeper crimson. Stem medium, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, inserted in a medium, slightly russeted cavity; basin medium, regular; calyx closed. Flesh white, tender, sweet, rather dry; core small. Good. Season September.

A favorite with many for baking and dessert. Largely planted 50 years ago, but seldom found at the present time.

HARMON.—Originated with J. H. Harmon, Buxton, Me., about 20 years ago. Tree "hardy as a maple and very productive."

Fruit medium, oblate, washed and overlaid with red, with splashes of deep crimson, and numerous large, greyish dots; cavity medium, wide; stem medium, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long; basin wide, shallow, slightly irregular; calyx small, closed; flesh yellowish, crisp, tender, rather rich, but sharp acid. Good. December to February.

From appearance, the fruit may be a possible seedling of St. Lawrence, but it lacks the fine white flesh of that variety. An attractive appearing apple, now being studied at the Station.

The originator says: "The original tree came up in my garden about 20 years ago. When old enough to transplant it was removed to where it now stands. Though not of first quality it is much better than many other varieties which are largely planted;—notably Ben Davis, Mann, Pewaukee, and American Blush, which last it so much resembles in color and shape as to be hardly distinguishable from it."* (Just which of several forms designated as "American Blush" the originator has in mind is uncertain. It certainly is quite different from the American Blush of Western New York, which is a synonym of Hubbardston.—W. M. M.)

HAYFORD SWEET.—A popular sweet apple in northern Aroostook county, where it originated on the farm of C. Hayford of Maysville, about 35 years ago.

Tree hardy, vigorous, spreading.

Fruit small to medium, oblate-conical, washed, splashed, and, on sunny side, deeply overlaid with crimson. Stem medium, short, inserted in a rather deep, narrow cavity; calyx small, open, in a deep, abrupt, slightly plaited basin; core small; flesh fine grained, rich, sweet but rather dry. Good. October to January, and in Aroostook county until March.

Although small and not very juicy, this variety is prized in northern Maine where there are very few winter apples which will withstand the climate. It is not of value where Tolman, and Munson Sweet thrive.

This variety first bore fruit in 1870, and the original tree is still standing in the garden of Mr. Hayford. It was first brought to public notice in the report of the Maine Experiment Station for 1893.†

HAYNES SWEET.—Origin, Swanville, Waldo county, Maine, on the farm of a Mr. Haynes, adjoining the Searsport line, about 70 years ago.

* Personal letter, December 22, 1905.

† An. Rept. Maine Agr. Expt. Sta., 1893, pp. 129 and 132.

Tree vigorous, spreading, hardy.

Fruit large, oblong, yellow, washed and splashed with scarlet; stem short, stout, inserted in a broad, shallow, slightly russet cavity; calyx open, basin shallow, slightly irregular; core large; flesh yellowish, coarse grained, sweet. Good. September to January.

This variety, brought to the writer's attention by John Nickels, Searsport, is perfectly hardy and vigorous as far north as Caribou. Its color is not bright enough to make it a valuable market sort, however.

KING SWEET (King Sweeting; Summer Sweet; Sidney Sweet; (incorrectly) Hightop Sweet).—Origin, farm of Ichabod Thomas, Sidney, Me., about one hundred years ago.

Tree hardy, vigorous, upright, compact, very productive on alternate years.

Fruit small to medium, roundish, conical, or frequently oblong-conical and nearly truncate; apple yellow, with a delicate blush on sunny side; stem short, small, inserted in a medium cavity; calyx closed, basin rather deep; flesh white, fine grained, tender, juicy, rich, very sweet; core small. Very good. September and October.

This variety is often confused with Hightop, which is a native of Massachusetts, and an entirely different apple. The true Hightop is roundish, or roundish conical, greenish yellow with numerous green dots, and is without the blush cheek. It also has a medium stalk, inserted in a narrow russeted cavity; while the basin is shallow and slightly furrowed. It likewise matures 2 or 3 weeks earlier than the King Sweet. Wherever known this variety is highly prized, but like all early sweet apples it is subject to trypetta attack.

LEGACE.—Seedling raised by Jules Legacé, Van Buren, Aroostook county, Me. Parentage uncertain, apparently Oldenburg.

Tree vigorous, spreading, very productive.

Fruit medium, roundish oblate, washed with red, and with splashes of deeper crimson. Stem 1 inch, inserted in a rather deep, somewhat russeted cavity; basin wide, rather shallow, slightly corrugated; calyx closed; flesh white, tender, juicy, pleasant sub-acid. Good, September and October; later at the north.

For southern Maine possesses no superior merit; apparently good for northern localities.

LITCHFIELD PIPPIN.—A seedling raised by William Hutchings, Litchfield, Me., introduced to public notice by Dr. Ford. (See Transactions of Maine Pomological Society, Agriculture of Maine, 1853, page 406).

The fruit is described as large, oval, somewhat irregular, yellow, with a deep blush on the sunny side; stem short; cavity narrow, shallow; basin broad, rather deep, somewhat corrugated; flesh white, sub-acid.

This variety seems to have disappeared from public notice.

MARLBORO.—Origin, farm of S. H. Remick, Marlboro, Me.

Fruit medium, oblate-spherical, yellowish green overlaid with rich crimson on the sunny side, with numerous small dark dots; cavity

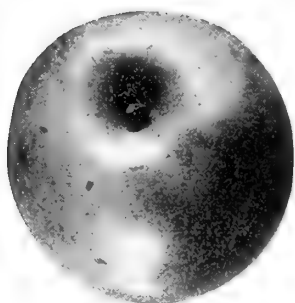


Figure 8. Hayford.
See page 125.

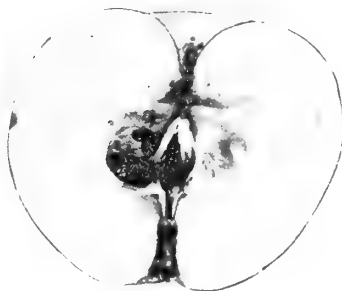
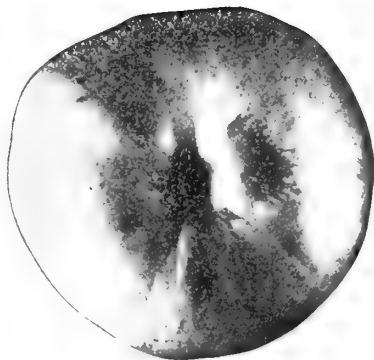
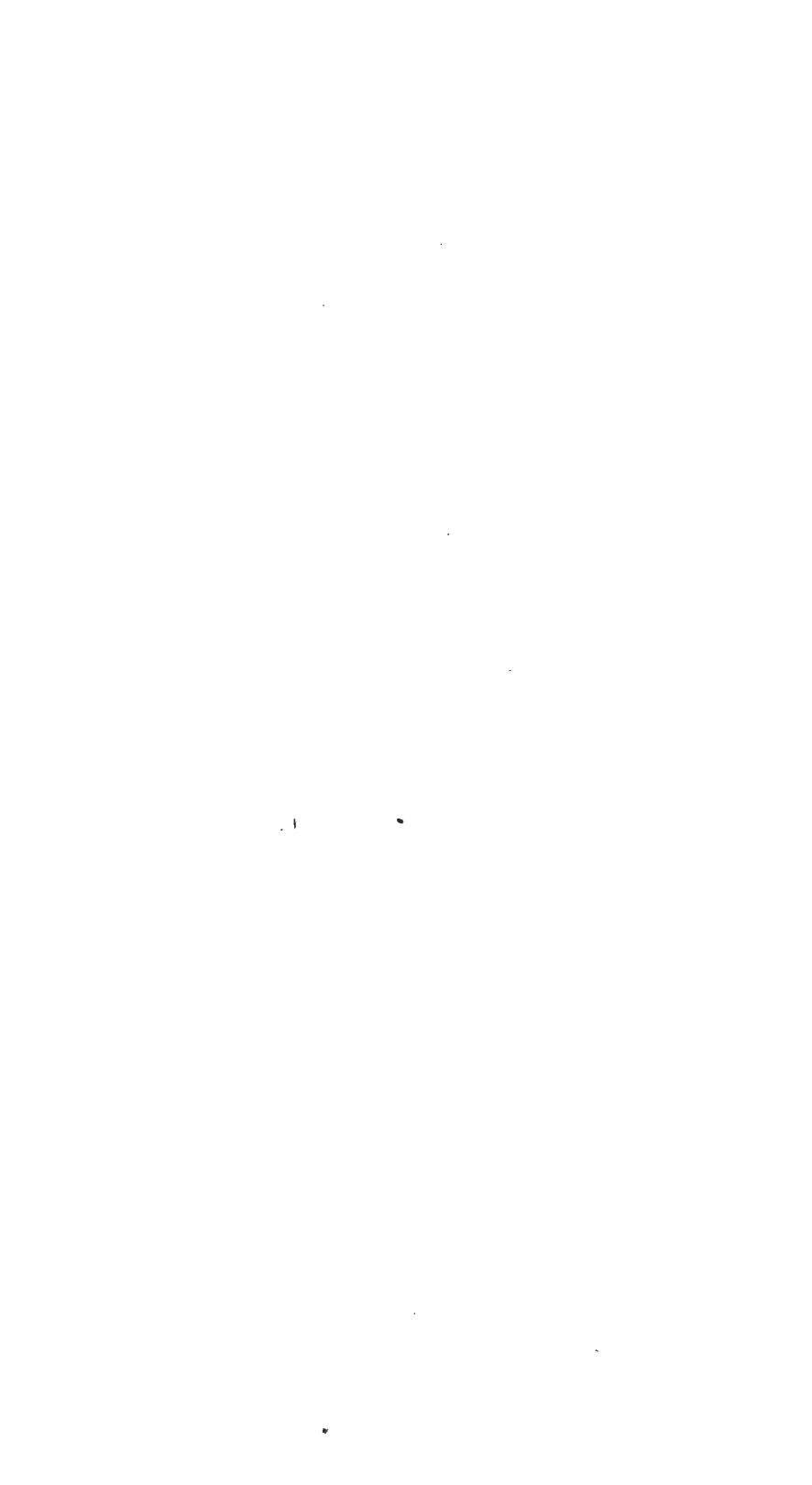


Figure 9. Haynes.
See page 125.



medium, flaring, regular, slightly russeted; stem slender, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; basin very wide, shallow, plaited; calyx partly closed; flesh white, crisp, juicy, fine grained, very firm, pleasant acid; core small. Good. January to May.

In March specimens of this variety were received from Mr. Remick, and they were in prime condition, with a rich aroma.

MONROE SWEET.—Origin, Aroostook county, Me.*

Fruit medium, roundish conical, greenish yellow, washed and splashed with crimson; stem long, slender, inserted in a deep, narrow, slightly russeted cavity; calyx large, partly closed, in a shallow, slightly irregular basin; flesh greenish white, rather dry, sweet. Season, in northern Maine, October to December. Good.

Frequently met in Aroostook county. It possesses no special merit, however.

MOSES WOOD.—Originated on the farm of Moses Wood (now owned by M. M. Bailey) of Winthrop, Me., before 1850.

Tree vigorous, hardy, productive.

Fruit medium, roundish, light yellow, striped with red; cavity and basin shallow; flesh white, tender, juicy, pleasant sub-acid. Good. September to October.

Still found in old orchards in central Maine, but not now planted. Like most apples of its class and season, it is badly attacked by the apple maggot.

NARRAGANSETT.—Originated on the farm of Jacob H. Harmon, Buxton, Me., in 1873.

The tree is reported as a free grower and very hardy; but rather a shy bearer.

Fruit medium to large, conical, pale yellow, washed and splashed with crimson, and heavily overlaid with a deeper shade of crimson on the sunny side, with numerous small white dots; cavity deep, flaring; stem short, stout; basin medium, slightly corrugated; calyx small, closed; flesh white, tender, rather dry, mild sub-acid; core small. Good. November and December.

This apple has a strong resemblance to Mother in size, form and general color, but is a darker crimson—almost as dark as Black Oxford in some cases—and the flavor is not as good as that of Mother.

NELSON.—Seedling from the farm of Mr. Elihu Wood, Winthrop, Me.

Fruit medium, oblong conical, pale yellow with numerous small grey dots; stem short, inserted in a moderately deep, narrow cavity; basin medium, regular; calyx small, open; flesh tender, juicy, sub-acid. Good. September.

Little known outside of its original immediate locality. Subject to trypeta attack.

* An. Rept. Maine Agr. Expt. Sta. 1893, p. 133; also 1902, p. 93.

NUTTING (Bumpus).—Seedling of Oldenburg, originated by the late James Nutting, Perham, Aroostook county, Me.

Tree hardy, vigorous, very productive, highly prized by the originator.

Fruit large, smooth, regular, uniform, roundish-conical, yellowish green with faint washing or penciling of dull red on sunny side; stem long, slender, inserted in a deep, regular cavity; basin medium, rather large, closed; flesh greenish white, tender, juicy, mild acid. Good. September to December.

In general appearance and quality this apple somewhat resembles Northwestern Greening, except for the blush. It is a much earlier apple, however. Its principal value is that it is "ironclad."

QUINCE, (Cole's Quince).—Origin, Cornish, Maine, on farm of Captain Henry Cole, about 60 years ago.

Tree vigorous, spreading, hardy, productive and comes into bearing early.

Fruit large, oblate conical, ribbed, bright yellow or occasionally brownish in the sun; stem short, in a narrow, deep basin; flesh white, tender, juicy, aromatic, pleasant sub-acid. Very good. August and September.

A very good variety for home use. Not extensively grown for commercial purposes, because of its season of maturity.

First described in a meeting of Oxford county (Me.) Agricultural Society in 1849.*

ROLFE, (Macomber).—Originated in the town of Guilford about 1820.

Fruit medium to large, oblate, often angular, yellowish, shaded and striped with red; stalk short, inserted in a large cavity; calyx large, closed, in a rather large, regular basin; flesh white, fine-grained, tender, juicy, sub-acid; core small. Good to very good. November to January.

Though comparatively an old variety, the Rolfe is not as widely known as it should be. The variety originated on high land in the town of Guilford, about a mile from the Piscataquis river. The seed from which it sprang was brought from Western Maine to that place by a Mr. Rolfe.† About 1820 the original tree, together with several other young seedlings, was given to Rev. Thomas Macomber—hence the name, Macomber, applied to this variety by Downing. A sprout from the original tree is still standing on the Macomber farm, and produces annual crops of fruit. The late H. L. Leland of East Sangerville had more than a hundred trees of this variety in his orchard, and in a personal letter to the writer said: "The Rolfe, in our local markets, sells better and at bigger prices than any other variety that we grow. It sells well as a shipping apple, though not much known." The variety is hardy in sheltered localities as far north as Presque Isle, and it is

* Agriculture of Maine, 1850, p. 319.

† Some claim that seeds of Blue Pearmain were planted on the farm afterwards purchased by Mr. Rolfe. See Trans. Me. Pom. Soc'y 1888, p. 120.

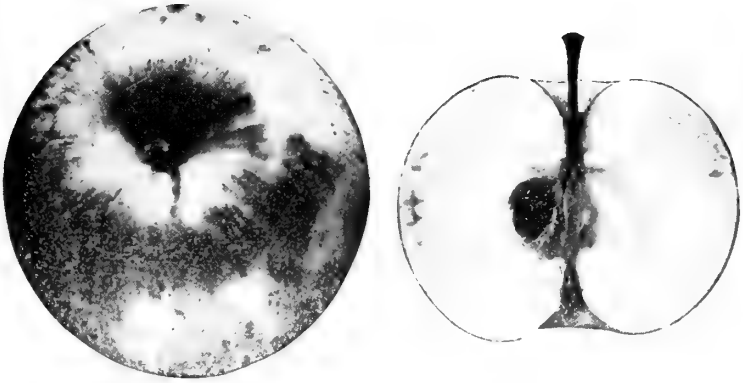


Figure 10. Legacé.
See page 126.

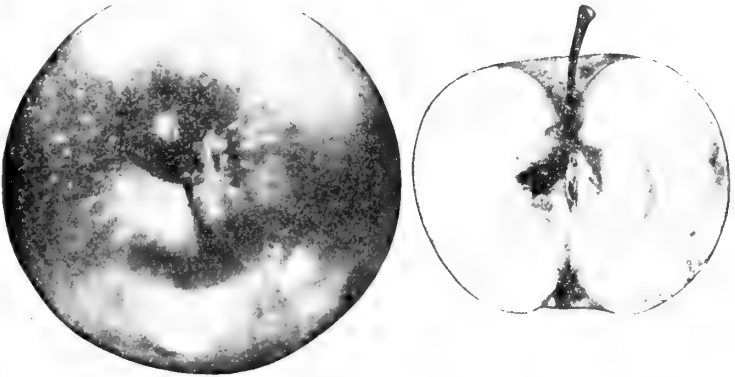


Figure 11. Nutting.
See page 130.

regarded highly wherever known. It is now being somewhat extensively top-grafted in the orchards of western Maine.

RUNNELS.—Origin, farm of John Runnels, Clinton, Me.

Tree hardy, very productive.

"Fruit medium, roundish, deep green, mostly covered with purplish brown; flesh firm. Good. April to June."—Downing.

Profitable as a market fruit from its great productiveness and long keeping qualities.—Downing; Thomas.

This variety has never come under the observation of the writer and is apparently abandoned. Its color is objectionable for market purposes.

RUSSELL.—Originated on the farm formerly owned by Captain William Russell of Farmington, more than 70 years ago.

Tree spreading, vigorous, hardy, productive.

Fruit large, roundish ovate, often flattened at the base; bright yellow, washed and obscurely striped with red on the sunny side; surface waxy; stem short, in a small, narrow cavity; basin small; calyx closed; core small; flesh yellow, fine grained, juicy, crisp, mild sub-acid. Best. September.

It is said that Captain Russell, one of the early settlers of Farmington, brought from Massachusetts, in his pocket, the seed from which this, and other seedlings, originated. The first cions were taken from the tree by Elias Eaton, and later by James Scales, and from these cions the variety was mainly disseminated—(Report Maine Pomological Society, 1889, 136).

The apple is well known and highly prized in Franklin county, where it is regarded as one of the best early autumn varieties.

SARAH.—Origin, farm of John Tufts, East Wilton, Me.

Tree very vigorous, spreading, productive, an annual bearer and comes into bearing early.

Fruit large, oblate-conic, yellow, shaded and mottled with light red, with stripes and splashes of darker red and a few light dots; stalk short, small, inserted in a broad, deep cavity; calyx nearly closed, basin medium, slightly corrugated; flesh whitish, coarse, tender, juicy, brisk, sub-acid; core medium. October.—(Downing).

Though still grown locally, this variety has been superseded by Gravenstein. It is apparently distinct from another local variety found in the same vicinity under the name of "Sally."

STANLEY, (Stanley's Winter Sweeting).—Origin, the orchard of J. L. Stanley, Winthrop, Me.

This variety is described as large, oblate, red, streaked and splashed with purple, with a bluish bloom; flesh white, juicy, sweet. Keeps till March. Described by Maine Pomological Society, 1850.—(Transactions of Maine Pomological Society, in Agriculture of Maine, 1853, page 407).

Listed by Downing,* but apparently unknown at the present time.

* Downing, *Fruits and Fruit Trees of America* (1872), p. 360.

STARKEY.—Originated in the town of Vassalboro, on the farm of Moses Starkey, before 1800. Apparently a Seedling of Ribstone.

Tree is hardy, vigorous, spreading; a regular and abundant bearer.

Fruit medium, oblate, slightly conic, regular; skin pale yellow, shaded, striped and splashed with light and dark red, with numerous greyish dots; the $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch stalk is small, inserted in a medium cavity, which is sometimes slightly russeted; flesh whitish, tender, juicy, mild sub-acid. Very good. October to January.

Where known the variety is highly esteemed, both for home and for market, because of its beautiful color and excellent quality.

Mr. E. H. Cook of Vassalboro, who raises large quantities of these apples, shipped two car-loads to Liverpool the past season. The net returns were \$2.40 per barrel, which was more than was received from anything else on the market except Kings.

Concerning the origin and merits of this variety, Mr. Cook writes as follows: "The original tree is not now living, but there is a tree near at hand that never was grafted, since its sprouts bear Starkey apples. The apple originated not less than 125 years ago. There are Starkey trees on my farm which are known to have been set 97 years ago and they are grafted to Starkey in the trunk. * * * Nothing is known of its origin, but I have no doubt it is a seedling of the Ribstone Pippin. * * * The Starkey is a remarkably good bearer, and will bear every year if well fertilized, but the trees will not stand neglect as well as Baldwins. From 50 Starkey trees, in the last two years, I have received 300 barrels of apples averaging 3 barrels per tree per year, and the average price was \$2.00 per barrel."

The variety is entirely distinct from Stark, with which it is often confused, and is deserving of more attention on the part of Maine fruit growers.

STEVENS GILLIFLOWER.—Origin, orchard of Mrs. Olive Stevens, Sweden, Oxford county, Maine.

Fruit medium, roundish conical, somewhat irregular, whitish, striped with red, the stripes radiating from the stem, covered with a fine bloom; cavity and basin shallow; flesh white, tender, fine grained, juicy, pleasant sub-acid. November to February.

This variety is a seedling of the Red Gilliflower, the seed having been brought from Massachusetts by Mrs. Olive Stevens about 1785 or 6 and planted by her in the town of Sweden, Oxford county, Me. (See Transactions of Maine Pomological Society, in Agriculture of Maine, 1853, page 403).

The variety seems to have disappeared, and has never been seen by the writer.

STOWE, (Stowe's Winter).—Originated in Perham, Aroostook county, Me., about 1875.

Tree vigorous, spreading, very hardy; an annual bearer.



Figure 12. 'Starkey'.
See page 134.

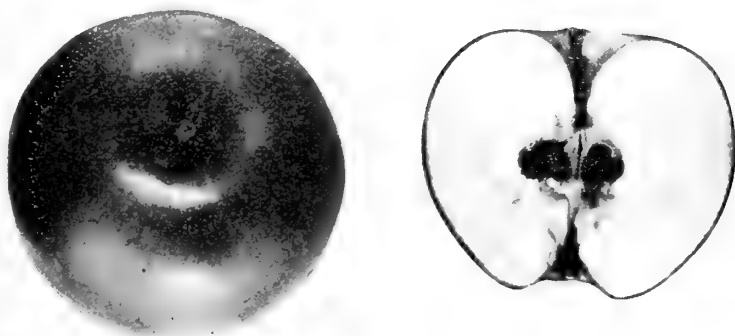


Figure 13. Stowe.
See page 134.

Fruit medium to large, roundish-conical, greenish yellow with blush cheek, and with many small whitish dots. Stem short, slender, inserted in a medium cavity. Calyx partly open; basin rather shallow. Flesh yellowish, tender, juicy, sub-acid, almost sweet. Core small. Good. October to February or even later in Aroostook county; much earlier at Orono.

This variety has never attracted the attention of nurserymen, but has had a good local reputation for several years. It is well worthy of general dissemination as a valuable "ironclad" variety. Its history, as given in the report of the Maine Pomological Society for 1895, is essentially as follows: Seed was brought to Perham from Massachusetts by Francis Stowe about 1862, and the variety in question was one of the resulting seedlings. The tree was isolated in 1875 and has been known locally for several years as Stowe's Winter. Mr. Rufus L. Stowe, son of the originator, writes that it "will keep longer than anything except Ben Davis and is nearly equal to that."*

SOMERSET, (Downs Somerset).—Origin, orchard of Albert J. Downs, Mercer, Somerset county, Me.

Fruit large, roundish ovate, yellow, washed and striped with red; stem long; basin broad and shallow; calyx shallow; slightly sub-acid. Very good. September, October.

This variety was described by the Maine Pomological Society in 1849.† It is an excellent apple and, when known, is highly prized as an early market variety. It is showy and sells well but drops badly from the tree, and is subject to attacks by the trypan.

This variety is entirely distinct from the Somerset of New York, described by Downing in 1869.

TABOR.—Originated with S. W. Tabor, Washburn, Me.

Fruit medium, oblate, yellowish green, washed and splashed with crimson; stem slender, inserted in a medium, widely flaring cavity, from which radiate 5 or 6 distinct furrows, making well marked segments; calyx small, closed, in a medium, abrupt, slightly plaited basin; core rather large; flesh greenish white, fine grained, tender, rather dry, sweet. Good. October to January.

If it does not occupy the same place as Hayford Sweet, it may prove an acquisition for northern Aroostook where winter sweet apples are scarce.

WINN RUSSET.—Origin, Sweden, Oxford county, Me., from seeds brought by John Winn, one of the early settlers of the town, from Woburn, Mass.

"Tree hardy, productive, but rather a slow grower."

"Fruit large, dark russet, distinctly striped with red with occasional greyish spots; cavity broad, deep; calyx medium; basin broad, shallow;

* Personal letter. See An. Rept. Maine Agr. Expt. Sta., 1902, p. 92.

† Trans. of Maine Pom. Soc'y, in Agr. of Maine, 1853, p. 408.

flesh fine grained, sub-acid. Good to very good. Keeps till May."—Transactions of Maine Pomological Society, in Agriculture of Maine, 1853, p. 412.

This variety is thought to be a seedling of Roxbury Russett. Seeds were brought to the town of Sweden very early, though the original tree was still standing in 1846. Its identity is lost at the present time.

WINTHROP GREENING.—Origin, the farm of Ichabod Howe, Winthrop, Me., who brought the seeds from Ipswich, Mass., before 1800. Introduced by Jacob Nelson, about 1808.

Tree vigorous, spreading, hardy, productive.

Fruit large, oblate conical, greenish yellow, shaded with red on the sunny side, with small greyish dots; stem medium, set in a broad, deep cavity; calyx short, large, in a wide basin; flesh fine grained, crisp, juicy, pleasant sub-acid. Very good. October to December.

This apple has been widely planted through central and western Maine. Its good quality, both for dessert and for cooking is generally recognized, but it is badly attacked by the trypteta, and it drops somewhat badly early in the autumn. The apple has been called by some "Lincoln Pippin," it having been grafted by R. G. Lincoln of Hallowell and subsequently distributed by him. There is no doubt, however, as to the origin of the apple. It has been dropped from the list of the American Pomological Society, where it was first entered in 1854. In the absence of trypteta, it is still a valuable late fall and early winter apple.

WINTHROP PEARMAIN.—Origin, farm of Col. John Fairbanks, Winthrop, Me. Described by the Maine Pomological Society, as follows:

"Fruit large, ovate, yellow, indistinctly striped with red, especially about the base. Stalk medium, set in a narrow, moderately deep cavity; basin narrow, shallow; flesh white, fine grained, juicy, pleasant sub-acid; skin tough. Good. October to February."—Agriculture of Maine, 1853, p. 401.

Cole's American Fruit Book in 1850, gives the season as September to November, and characterizes the tree as a constant bearer.

As far as the writer is aware, this variety has dropped from notice.

ZACHARY PIPPIN.—Origin, according to Downing,* farm of John Burbank, Belgrade, Me. Discovered and introduced by the late Joseph Taylor of Belgrade, in 1852. Named in honor of President Zachary Taylor.

Tree vigorous, spreading, productive, but not an early bearer.

Fruit large, oblate, angular; skin greenish yellow, striped, splashed and mottled with light and dark red; stalk short, rather small; cavity large, deep, slightly russet; calyx closed; basin medium, slightly corrugated; flesh whitish, rather coarse, tender, moderately juicy, sub-acid. November, December.

* Downing, Fruits and Fruit Trees of America, 2d appendix (1876), page 72.

Very similar in general characteristics to Sarah. Not planted at the present time; though several trees are still standing in the orchard of the introducer.

OBSCURE OR OBSOLETE VARIETIES.

Of the varieties described in the foregoing pages the following are either wholly or practically extinct; though at one time of considerable importance: Bailey Golden, Fairbanks, Nelson, Runnels, Stevens Gilliflower, Winn Russet, Winthrop Pearmain, Zachary Pippin.



Figure 14. Winthrop (Greening).

See page 138.

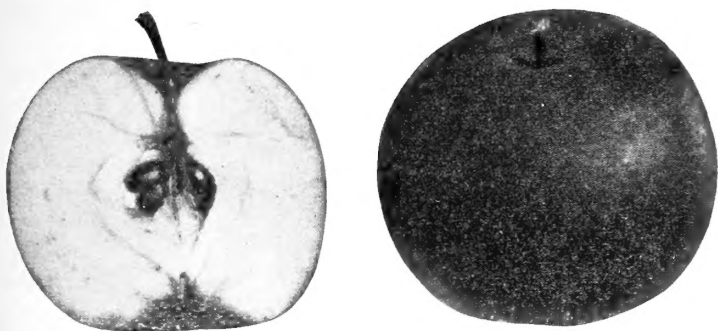


Figure 15. Marlboro.
See page 126.

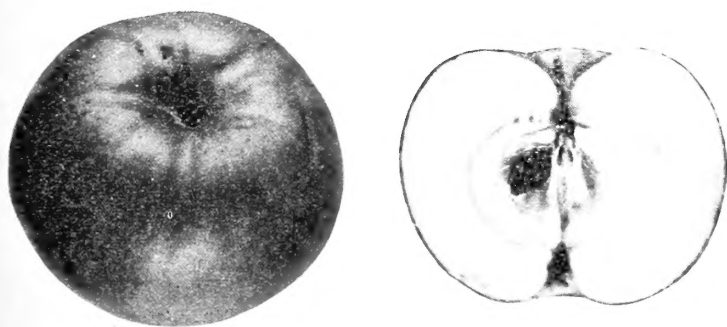


Figure 16. Tabor.
See page 137.

